

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Claim 1. (Original)** A method for improving the integrity of the corneal epithelium comprising introducing an ophthalmically compatible form of a retinoid into the eye in an amount sufficient to enhance the integrity of the corneal epithelium.

**Claim 2. (Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising introducing the retinoid into the eye in the form of an ophthalmic solution.

**Claim 3. (Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising introducing the ophthalmic solution in the form of drops or mist.

**Claim 4. (Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the retinoid is introduced into the eye in the form of a gel or ointment.

**Claim 5. (Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising introducing the retinoid into the eye by applying the retinoid to a contact lens and placing the contact lens in the eye.

**Claim 6. (Original)** The method of claim 5 wherein the step of applying the retinoid to the contact lens further comprises attaching the retinoid to a linking agent.

**Claim 7. (Original)** The method of claim 5 wherein said applying step further comprises dipping the contact lens in a solution containing the retinoid.

**Claim 8. (Currently amended)** The method of claim 1 further comprising placing in the eye a retinoid in a sustained release form of the retinoid.

**Claim 9. (Original)** The method of claim 5 wherein said sustained release form of the retinoid further comprises a contact lens containing the retinoid.

**Claim 10. (Original)** The method of claim 6 wherein the contact lens contains sorbed retinoid.

**Claim 11. (Original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the retinoid is adsorbed onto the contact lens.

**Claim 12. (Original)** A method for improving the integrity of the corneal epithelium in an eye wearing a contact lens comprising introducing an ophthalmically compatible form of a retinoid into the eye in an amount sufficient to enhance the integrity of the corneal epithelium.

**Claim 13. (Original)** The method of claim 12 further comprising introducing the retinoid into the eye in the form of drops.

**Claim 14. (Original)** The method of claim 12 further comprising introducing the retinoid into the eye by applying the retinoid to a contact lens and placing the contact lens in the eye.

**Claim 15. (Original)** The method of claim 14 wherein said applying step further comprises dipping the contact lens in a solution containing the retinoid.

**Claim 16. (Currently amended)** The method of claim 12 further comprising placing in the eye a retinoid in a sustained release form of the ~~retinoid~~.